

Message Text

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R 240149Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 115879

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 115879 ACTION MANAMA 17 MAY.

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 115879

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MARR, BA

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: (A) MANAMA 560 (B) MANAMA 510

1. YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF TIMING CONSTRAINTS FOR INITIATING
NEW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN FY 75 AS DISCUSSED
REF (A) ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. ACTUALLY, SINCE CONGRESSIONAL
NOTIFICATION CANNOT BE SUBMITTED ON SUNDAY (I.E., JUNE 15),
IN EFFECT JUNE 13 IS FINAL DAY ON WHICH TO SUBMIT 15 DAY
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION NEEDED TO COMMENCE PROGRAM THIS FISCAL

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YEAR.

2. IF NOT INITIATED THIS FISCAL YEAR, IT LIKELY THAT BAHRAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL LATE IN FY 76 BECAUSE OF LIKELIHOOD AID WILL AGAIN BE OPERATING ON CONTINUING RESOLUTION AUTHORITY (CRA) DURING FIRST PART OF NEW FISCAL YEAR AS WAS CASE THIS YEAR AND IN PAST. AS AID UNABLE BEGIN NEW PROGRAMS UNDER CRA, COMMENCEMENT OF NEW PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FY 76 AID AUTHORIZATION. FY 75 AUTHORIZATION BILL WAS NOT PASSED UNTIL LATE DECEMBER 1974.

3. ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS NOT FORMALLY TIED TO MIDEASTFOR NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL REALITIES OF SITUATION HAVE DICTATED THAT DISCUSSIONS OF OUR NEW BAHRAIN AID PLAN WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS BE HANDLED IN CONTEXT OF MIDEASTFOR; WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE NOW TO PRESENT OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF NEW PROGRAM TO CONGRESS BEFORE WE SATISFIED THAT MIDEASTFOR ARRANGEMENTS ARE CONCLUDED, OR AT LEAST HAVE FIRM COMMITMENT THAT THEY WILL BE CONCLUDED. DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANY CHANCE WE COULD GET FROM GOB CONFIDENTIAL LETTER OF INTENT TO THIS EFFECT?

4. LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER TO BEGIN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON TA PROGRAM. WE RECOGNIZE POSSIBILITY THAT BEGINNING FORMAL DISCUSSIONS COULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT RE MIDEASTFOR. WE LEAVE THIS TO YOUR JUDGMENT. YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO GOB, HOWEVER, THAT AGREEMENT ON TA PROJECT CANNOT BE CONSUMMATED AND PROGRAM ACTUALLY INITIATED, UNTIL AFTER CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION PROCESS IS COMPLETED AND THAT THIS HINGES UPON SATISFACTORY FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MIDEASTFOR.

5. WE SHARE YOUR BELIEF THAT DELAY IN BEGINNING DISCUSSIONS ON TA PROGRAM WILL NOT BRING GOB TO CONCLUDE MIDEASTFOR PAPERWORK, BUT MEANWHILE GOB MIGHT WISH TO UNDERSTAND TIME CONSTRAINTS WHICH APPLY TO INITIATION OF PROGRAM - AND ESPECIALLY ITS LINKAGE TO COMPLETION OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON MIDEASTFOR - AS NOTED PARA 2 ABOVE. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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